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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Expedited Handling
Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Official

Appln. Ser. No.:	Filed:	Inventor(s):	Atty Dkt:
09/543,951	6 April 2000	W. Dalton	1633-015A
Title: Improved Brush Seal Designs for Turbines and Similar Rotary Apparatus			
Examiner: M. Rogers			Art Unit: 3677

Asst. Comm'r for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-00017 Page Response VIA FACSIMILE
703-872-9327

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENTS

Dear Sir:

In complete and timely response to the Office action mailed 27 January 2003, in which the rejection of the pending claims 1-9 was designated as final, please first amend the application as follows, the mark-ups of the amendments being shown in the attached appendix.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A second location where steam seals are required is between the casing and the turbine shaft. Creating seals over such regions has been addressed generally over the years by installing a segmented packing between the casing and the turbine shaft at each turbine stage. The packing typically consists of a first ring structure with multiple rows of fins (i.e., seal teeth) on one of the parts and a second structure with multiple rows of surface projections that correspond to the fins. The first ring structure typically is mounted from the associated diaphragm and the second ring structure typically is mounted to the turbine shaft.